



SURGICAL TECH

Essentials needed to perform with organized precision and skill in the operating room



INTRODUCTION

- **Surgical technologist** (a.k.a. "scrub" or "scrub tech")
 - An allied health professional and sterile surgical team member who has completed a CAABEP-accredited (or equivalent) program; required:
 - Basic knowledge of medical terminology, anatomy, physiology, microbiology, and pharmacology to apply while in the operating room (OR).
 - Vast knowledge of sterile technique, surgical

- instruments, and surgical supplies to apply while protecting the sterile supplies from contamination within the sterile workspace
- **Certified surgical technologist (CST)**
 - Surgical technologist who has completed a CAABEP-accredited program (or the equivalent) and has passed the NIBSTSA certification exam
 - Once a CST has obtained NIBSTSA certification, the CST must either:
 - Obtain and report at least 30 continuing education

units (CEU) every two years through AST-approved sources and submit the official renewal form and fee to NIBSTSA.

- Renew certification by retaking and passing NIBSTSA's CST exam

Note: Some states and employers require certification for employment. Visit www.ast.org for an overview of state laws related to the education/certification of surgical technologists.

OPERATING ROOM (OR) TEAM



- **Goal:** Assist in optimal patient care
- **Motto:** "Aeger primo" (patient first)

Sterile Members

- **Surgical technologist:** See Surgical Tech Duties, right
- **Surgeon:** Performs the procedure,

maintains homeostasis, and directs the OR team

- **Surgeon's assistant:** Collaborates with the surgeon during the surgical procedure to provide visualization, homeostasis, wound closure, and patient care

Nonsterile Members

- **Anesthesia provider:** Sedates the patient, maintains the airway, and monitors vital signs and blood loss to maintain homeostasis
- **Circulator:** Ensures all perioperative protocols are completed, such as prepping and positioning the patient, clustering patient information while in the OR, distributing nonsterile items, and obtaining/opening sterile supplies for the sterile team with the sterile technique during a surgical procedure
- **Auxiliary staff** (pathology, radiology, etc.): Processes, tests, and analyzes specimens and reports results; provides real-time diagnostic support during the surgical procedure

Surgical Tech Duties

Perioperative Duties

- Time management

- Organization
- Critical thinking
- Stress management
- Teamwork
- Patient care

Preoperative Duties

- Prepare the OR with case-specific sterile and nonsterile surgical supplies
- Complete surgical scrub and don a sterile surgical gown and sterile gloves
- Organize sterile supplies using sterile technique, including labeling medications and other sterile solutions
- Complete mandatory counts of supplies within the sterile workspace for each surgical case including, but not limited to, sponges, sharps, and instruments
- Assist in draping patient with sterile technique
- Complete WHO-required "sign in" and "time out" with the OR team

Intraoperative Duties

- Maintain sterile technique within sterile field with all other sterile and nonsterile team members
- Recognize and correct breaks in sterility when/ if they occur
- Follow along with the sequence of the case and anticipate the needs of the

surgeon and surgical assistant

- Prepare and pass all sterile supplies to the surgeon and surgical assistant
- Hold organs and retractors
- Care for specimens (if obtained) until surgeon gives a specific plan of action
- Complete intraoperative supply counts (sponges, sharps, instruments, accessories, etc.)

Postoperative Duties

- Complete postoperative supply counts (sponges, sharps, instruments, accessories, etc.)
- Complete WHO "sign out" with the OR team
- Assist with dressing the wound
- Maintain sterility of supplies until patient leaves the OR
- After patient leaves the OR, break down the case into respective supply receptacles (sharps container, biohazard container, garbage, linen, etc.)
- Take used surgical case supplies to designated area within the OR department for disposal, cleaning, or sterilization
- Assist in cleaning the OR for the next surgical case

CST-ASSOCIATED ORGANIZATIONS

- **National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA, www.nbstsa.org):** Develops the certification exam and verifies, awards, and revokes credentials of surgical technologists and surgical assistants
- **Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP, www.caahep.org):** Largest programmatic accreditor of the health sciences professions
- **Association of Surgical Technologists (AST, www.ast.org):** Upholds the standards of practice for patient care and the profession

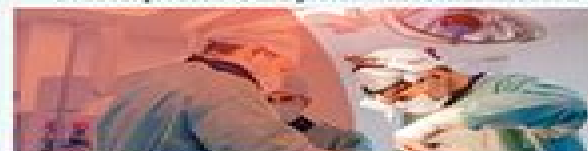
- The CST must renew AST membership annually.
- **The Joint Commission (TJC, www.jointcommission.org):** Independent nonprofit organization that sets standards and accredits/verifies health-care facilities that meet or exceed safe and effective care of the highest quality and value
- **Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA, www.osha.gov):** Ensures safe and healthy working conditions for employees and patients by setting and enforcing standards through training, outreach, education, and assistance
- **World Health Organization (WHO, www.who.int):** Global health organization that establishes, monitors, and enforces international norms and standards of health and disease

MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY USED IN THE OR

- **Sterile:** Free of all living microorganisms
- **Sterile technique:** Specific practices and procedures performed to protect a designated area or supplies used to prevent the contamination and spread of pathogens and maintain sterility
 - **Strike-through contamination:** Contamination of a sterile surface or object that occurs when fluid passes through a microbial barrier or nonsterile surface
- **Surgical site infection (SSI):** Infection acquired in a surgical wound from the healing process or contamination
- **Contaminated:** To infect by contact or association with pathogenic materials

- **Decontaminator:** To rid of contamination
- **Nonsterile:** Not free from living microorganisms; not sterile
- **Perioperative:** The entire operative sequence for a specific operative case and patient care procedures
 - **Preoperative (pre-ops):** Beginning of the operative sequence of supplies entering the OR until the first incision is made or orifice entered
 - **Intraoperative (intra-ops):** Actual surgical procedure from the first incision/orifice entered until the last stitch is complete or orifice exited
 - **Postoperative (post-ops):** Conclusion of the surgical procedure from the dressing of the wound until the patient leaves the OR
- **Surgical conscience:** Putting the patient first by doing what is moral and just at all times; the surgical technologist must:

- Accept and maintain patient confidentiality
- Ensure the safety of everyone in the OR
- Be practical with medical supplies, cost, and time
- Maintain sterile practices and hold team members accountable
- Prevent any and all contaminations
- Be attentive to the patient's scheduled time in the OR during perioperative services
- Conduct productive and professional communication



Study Guide Surgical Tech

**Association of Surgical Technologists
Staff, Bob L Caruthers, Paul Price, Teri L
Junge**

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Surgical Tech Lora Smith, 2019-11 Quick reference to the answers you need for your education as a surgical technologist also known as a scrub scrub tech surgical technician or operating room tech Working in an operating room for surgery requires organized precision and skill to be part of a lifesaving team In 6 laminated pages this tool will keep the most important core elements of your education at your fingertips for easy and quick review at a moment's notice in the classroom as a last minute review or during marathon study sessions Frequent reviews will commit these answers to your memory for class tests the CST exam for certification and beyond to job interviews and ultimately the operating room Ensure success in this exciting and growing field with a study tool that offers more value per page than any surgical tech study tool out there 6 page laminated guide includes Introduction Operating Room OR Team CST Associated Organizations Medical Terminology Used in the OR Prefixes Suffixes Abbreviations OR Layout Furniture Air Quality Control Anatomy for the Surgical Technician Patient Positions on the OR Table Surgical Instruments in the OR Anesthesia Pharmacology Hemostasis Disinfection Sterilization The Instrument Cycle *Study Guide for the Association of Surgical Technologists' Surgical Technology for the Surgical Technologist: A Positive Care Approach* Association of Surgical Technologists, 2023-11-11 The study guide includes lab activities for each chapter that inspire learning through creative and practical applications hundreds of questions in each chapter to help reinforce and test your understanding of the concepts image labeling exercises to build your knowledge of instruments and anatomy and case studies with related questions to develop and sharpen your critical thinking skills

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of tissue Anti infections drugs Hemolytic drugs Coagulants Drugs commonly used in cardiac and respiratory failure Diuretics Basic medical terminology and abbreviations practice exams *The Ultimate Cst Study Guide for Surgical Technologists* Monique De Ville,2013-03 With over 1 000 practice questions this book is designed to be a comprehensive study tool used to prepare surgical technologists for certified surgical technologist exam offered by the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting This study guide includes full explanations high quality instrument images and questions covering Anatomy Physiology Microbiology Pharmacology Pathophysiology Preoperative Preparation Intraoperative Procedures Postoperative Procedures and Sterilization Maintenance *The Practical Study Guide for the Surgical Technologist Certification Exam Cst* As Joseph J. Rios,Joseph J. Rios,2008-08-18 This study contains sample questions that have historically been used in prior exams in an effort to familiarize the user in understanding the exam structure In addition this study guide contains two 2 175 question practice exams that will assist the user in understanding the strengths and weaknesses T p

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